

Tintwistle Rural District Council.

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— ANNUAL REPORT —

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1897.



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TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**A N N U A L   R E P O R T**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1897.**

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*To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Rural District  
Council of Tintwistle.*

Mottram,

January 29th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the Health and sanitary conditions of your district for the past year, together with the usual statistics of sickness and mortality on the Forms A and B supplied by the Local Government Board.

Population — Census, 1891. ....	2,576
„        Estimated to middle of 1897...	2,403
Area in Acres .....	16,175
Birth Rate per 1,000 living .....	24·9
Death Rate per 1,000 living... ..	13·3
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 living .....	2
Death Rate of Children under 1 year per 1,000 Registered Births.....	83·3

The population of this District has decreased considerably during the last year, owing to the depressed condition of the cotton trade, and the stoppage of one of Messrs. T. H. Sidebottom and Co.'s large mills at Waterside, with the result that a large number of operatives have been compelled to leave the neighbourhood, and seek employment elsewhere. In consequence of this there are at the present time 68 empty houses in the Tintwistle portion of the District. Calculating five persons to each house, and adding the excess of births over deaths since 1893, makes the population, up to the middle of 1897, 2,403.

During the year ending December 31st, 1898, 60 births have been registered (20 males and 40 females), as compared with 61 births, and a birth-rate of 23·1 per 1,000 in the year 1896

The following table shows the number of births and the birth-rate for the past five years :—

Year.	No. of Births	Rate per 1,000.	Population.
1893	77	29 2	2630
1894	62	23·5	2630
1895	73	27·7	2630
1896	61	23·1	2630
1897	60	24 9	2403

**DEATH-RATE.**—The number of deaths at all ages, and from all causes, during the year, was 32 (18 males and 14 females), equal to a death-rate of 13·3 per 1,000, as against 42 deaths, and a death-rate of 15·9 for the preceding year. Five deaths occurred to children under 1 year, equal to a death-rate of 2 per 1,000 inhabitants, or 83·3 for every 1,000 registered births.

Year.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality under 1 Year.	Rate per 1,000	Population.
1893	65	24·7	12	4·5	2630
1894	35	13 3	13	4·9	2630
1895	34	12·5	6	2·2	2630
1896	42	15·9	8	3·0	2630
1897	32	13·3	5	2·0	2403

Of the total number of deaths registered, 5 occurred to children under 1 year, 10 between 1 and 5, 3 between 5 and 15, 2 between 15 and 25, 8 between 25 and 65, and 4 from 65 years upwards.



Acute diseases of the respiratory organs, such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia, caused 5 deaths, Heart Disease 3, and Phthisis 4.

**ZYMOTIC DISEASES.**—There were 21 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, viz. :—17 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 Erysipelas, 1 Diphtheria, 1 Membranous Croup, and 1 Typhoid Fever.

**MEASLES.**—Several cases of Measles occurred in January and February, being the remnant of the epidemic that visited the district in December, and resulted in 4 deaths. This disease not being notifiable, the exact number of cases could not be ascertained.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—Scarlet Fever, of a comparatively mild character, cropped up periodically during the first seven months of the year, and appears to have been spread from a case that occurred in the latter part of December of the previous year, which was carelessly allowed to return to school (British), before the infectious stage had passed, although instructions had been given to the contrary. This child infected her cousin, who attended the same school, and with whom she was in daily intercourse, and in this way 15 cases occurred in 9 separate families, all of whom, with two exceptions, attended the same school. The last of these cases occurred in July, but in December an isolated case was notified in Church Street, and was, no doubt, contracted from an adjoining house, where two of the former cases had occurred. There was also an isolated case at Arrandale Farm, in the Hattersley portion of the District. In this case the source could, with a fair amount of accuracy, be ascertained, as Scarlet Fever was prevalent in Mottram where the child attended school, and it is probable that the infection was contracted in that locality. As this occurred at a Farmhouse, instructions were given prohibiting any milk being brought into the house, and the milkman isolated from the other members of the family until all infection had passed, and thorough disinfection had been carried out. From the preceding facts, I think we may justly infer that the British School must be credited with the spread of this outbreak in the Tintwistle portion of the district. I think much might be done in preventing Zymotic or Infectious Diseases spreading amongst children, if more care was observed by the Heads of Schools in inquiring into the nature of the illness of children when absent from school, and when found to be infectious, prohibiting others of the same family from attending until they had received a certificate from the Medical Attendant that all danger of infection had passed.

**DIPHTHERIA, CROUP, AND ERYSIPELAS.**—One case each of these diseases was notified. The premises were inspected, but no insanitary condition discovered to account for the attack.

**TYPHOID.**—One case occurred at the Stocks. These houses are old, and delapidated, and in an insanitary condition. They are built on the slope of the hill, and at the gable end of the top house, against the pantry wall, there is a large open midden, three feet above the level of the house floor, causing a very offensive smell in the house. The closet in connection with this property is very dirty, and the cesspool connected with it overflowing into a loose rubble drain, and I am of opinion that this property is unfit for human habitation in its present state, and it was specially brought under your notice. In all cases where infectious diseases occur, the premises are examined, and where defects are found, the owners are served with notices to remedy them. The patients are isolated as far as possible, and the clothes and bedding disinfected. The parents of children suffering from infectious diseases are instructed to prohibit all other members of the family from attending school, or other people's children from entering the infected house until all possibility of infection is passed.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The water supply continues abundant and good.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—There are no milk shops in the District, the milk being supplied from farms outside.

**LODGING HOUSES.**—There are no common lodging houses.

**NOXIOUS TRADES.**—No offensive trades are carried on in the neighbourhood.

**STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.**—The closets and middens belonging to the Club house property, which were in a delapidated condition, have been much improved by the erection of six new ones, in accordance with the bye-laws. New drains from the shippon and stables at the "Chapman Arms" have been laid, in place of the old rubble ones, which were constantly choked. The slop-stone pipes at Buckley's property in Church-street, which were in direct communication with the drain, have been disconnected.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT.—Your Sanitary Inspector reports having served 12 notices for the removal of large accumulations of refuse, choked drains, and other nuisances, and with the exception of one or two, which require new drains and other structural repairs, now in progress, have all been remedied. He remarks that owing to the stoppage of the cotton mills having impoverished the Tintwistle District, and emptied so many houses, it has been difficult to carry on much structural improvement.

INSPECTION. Periodical inspections of the District, including slaughter-houses, shippens, and dairies, have been made, and where insanitary conditions have been found, the overseers have been required to remove them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. S. BURNETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

